

105.2009_WitRpt_LouiseGeist_pl

MISS LOUISE GEIST, being duly sworn according to law on her oath, testified as follows;

DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SIMPSON:

Q You were a maid in Mrs. Hall's house the night of the murders?

A Yes, sir.

Q You worked there how long?

A I don't remember - it was October.

MR. PFEIFFER: Mr. Simpson, I am sorry, but you

are directly in the path of the witness.

Q Do you recall this gentleman, Mr. Reilly?

A Yes, sir.

Q Did you have any conversation with him lately?

A About a month ago.

Q Did you give him a signed statement?

A No, sir.

Q Did you sign any statement?

A No, sir.

Q Did you tell him you could blow the whole works on this case, that they didn't dare arrest you, that you knew all about it, and you could blow the whole works if you talked, and let them arrest you?

A No, sir.

Q You didn't say anything of that kind?

A No, sir.

2009 p2

Q Did you have a conversation with him? A I did.

Q About how long did it last?

A About ten or fifteen minutes?

Q You say you were a maid in Mrs. Hall's house the night
of the murders?

A Yes, sir.

Q Did you get a telephone call on the night of the murders?

A I answered a telephone call.

Q Well, then, you got it, didn't you, if you answered it?

A Yes, sir.

Q What time did you get it?

A Between seven and eight.

Q From Mrs. Mills? A Yes, sir.

Q You knew her voice?

A Well, I wasn't positive about it.

Q You have sworn already it was her voice - do you want to
eat that?

A I said it sounded like her voice.

Q You have sworn already it was her voice - do you want to
eat that?

A No, not exactly.

Q Was it her voice? A I think it was.

Q When you got that telephone call where were you?

A I was in Mr. Hall's bedroom.

Q What floor was that on?

2009 p3

A On the second floor.

Q And when you got that call who was at the telephone downstairs?

A I didn't see anyone.

Q Did you ever see anybody at the telephone downstairs?

A When I answered the phone I went to the top of the stairs to call Mr. Hall, and when I looked over the banister Mrs. Hall had just walked in and had picked the receiver up.

Q What were you doing when she picked the receiver up?

A Looking over the banister.

Q Were you answering the call or had you answered it?

A I had answered it.

Q What had you told Mrs. Mills over the telephone?

A "Just a minute."

Q What did you tell Mrs. Hall?

A I said that it was for Mr. Hall.

Q Then what did you do?

A Mrs. Hall told me he was up-stairs.

Q Then what did you do, did you get out?

A He called from the bathroom and then he came out shortly after that.

Q Did he answer that call? A Yes.

Q What did you hear him say over the telephone?

A I heard him say, "Yes, yes, yes," and the rest that I

cannot remember was something about having seen a painter

2009 p4

or something down at the church.

Q Did he say anything about "That is too bad," "That is too bad?"

A I think he did, I am not sure.

Q This is fair years ago. I am not asking you to remember every word. Your recollection is that he said, "That is too bad, that is too bad?" About what time was that?

A Somewheres between seven and eight.

Q After he answered the phone what did you do?

A Well, I finished my work upstairs and then I came downstairs.

Q When you came downstairs did you see anybody about at all?

A I saw Mr. Hall talking to Mrs. Hall.

Q Where?

A At the foot of the stairs.

Q Was he dressed to go out or without his hat?

A I don't remember about the hat part, but I think he was dressed to go out.

Q Gofon, was there any conversation?

A I just heard him speak about two sentences and then I went out of the room.

Q Where did you go?

A I went into the pantry.

Q Did you see him when he left the house?

A I saw him when he passed the back stoop.

2009 p5

Q Were you at the back stoop? A Yes.

Q Which direction did he go?

A Out the driveway to Redmond Street.

Q Did you see Mrs. Hall at the time he left the house?

A No.

Q Do you know how he was dressed - did he have a light overcoat on?

A He didn't have any overcoat on.

Q Had nothing in his hand, so far as you can remember?

A No, sir.

Q Umbrella, stick or anything? A No, sir.

Q So far as you can remember he didn't have anything?

A No, sir.

Q And as he passed you did he say anything to you?

A He remarked that it was a nice night.

Q Did he say anything about your fellow?

A He asked if I was waiting for him.

Q And what did you say to him?

A I said, "Which one."

Q Did you stay in the house all night, go to bed in that house, or was that your night off?

A No, I went to bed in that house.

Q What time did you go to bed?

A Between nine and ten.

Q And where was your room? A Third floor.

2009 p 6

Q Did you have anything to do with the Doctor's study, where he kept his private papers and letters?

A No, sir.

Q What was your work?

A I took care of the downstairs.

Q So that you went to bed between nine and ten o'clock, and you don't know anything more until you came down the next morning?

A Yes, sir.

Q What did you hear the next morning?

A Oh, I heard shutters rumbling. If Mr. Hall decided to go to New York he pulled down the shutters, which told me he wanted early breakfast.

Q Who was the cook? A Maria Gildea.

Q When you came down, hearing these shutters, who did you see?

A When I came into the dining room I saw Mr. Stevens.

Q That is Mr. Stevens here, (Indicating Mr. Stevens)?

A Yes.

Q And about what time was it?

A I think it was a little after seven.

Q That was an unusual hour to see him up, wasn't it?

A Yes, so far as I can remember.

Q He used to get up later than that - what did you say to him when you saw him?

2009 p7

A I asked him what he was doing up so early.

Q And did he say there was something terrible happened last night, but don't tell her I told you?

A No, he said, I don't remember the exact words, something happened last night, but don't tell Frances I told you.

Q Who was Frances? A Mrs. Hall.

Q When did Mrs. Hall come down to breakfast?

A It may have been fifteen minutes or a half hour later.

Q Did she take breakfast with Willie - with Mr. Stevens - the papers call him Willie and I get in the habit - Mr. Stevens?

A Yes, sir.

Q Was there places set for three, for Dr. Hall too?

A Yes, sir.

Q Could you hear any conversation about whether he was coming in or he wasn't coming in? A I didn't hear any.

BY THE COURT:

Q Who was it that told you something happened last night, but don't tell Frances? Whom were you speaking of then?

A Mr. Stevens.

BY MR. SIMPSON:

Q And there was nothing eventful happened that time? I mean nothing about that that you could hear?

A No, only Mrs. Hall told me at breakfast Mr. Hall hadn't been home all night.

Q Did she say? A She said she didn't know. She had called up the police.

Q Did she say she had given her name to the police?

A Not that I remember.

Q What did she say? A She said she had asked whether there were any accidents reported.

Q Didn't she tell you she had not given any name when she said that? A I don't remember that.

Q What time did you get to bed on Thursday?

A Between nine and ten.

Q Dr. Hall was not home Friday morning, was he? A No.

Q Now, then, on Friday what happened? Was there anything out of the ordinary or did they both take breakfast as usual?

A They both took breakfast together.

Q Both Mr. Stevens and Mrs. Hall? A They both took breakfast.

Q Was there any talk that you heard about Dr. Hall or signs of grief or anything of that kind? A No.

Louise Geist--direct

2009 p 9

Q Excitement? A Mrs. Hall cried when she told me.

MR. PFEIFFER: If your Honor please, the
murder was Thursday^{night} and we are discussing Friday
morning.

Q When was it you came down and found Willie with the
shades down? A Friday morning.

Q Go on. Did anything happen on Friday morning except that?

A No, except that Mr. Hall's two sisters were there for
lunch. I think the two of them was there.

Q Was there a little girl there? A Oh, yes, little
Frances was there.

Q When did she come,--Frances? A She had been there.

Q For how long? A I don't know.

Q Was she taken away that same Friday? A I think she
was taken away on Friday morning or Friday afternoon.

Q She came Wednesday and stayed a week? A I don't remem-
ber when she came.

Q Now, Friday night did you see Mrs. Hall talking to Mr.
Stevens before you went to bed? A Yes, I did.

Q What did you hear her say to him? A I believe she
said good night to him, and he asked her if she was going to
bed. She said, "Yes. I thought he would come last night
but I know he won't come tonight."

Q She said, "I know he won't be home tonight." Is that
what she said? A Yes.

Q What time did you get up Saturday? A Between seven
and eight.

Louise Geist--direct.

2009 p 10

Q Did you hear anything around the breakfast table unusual on Saturday? A Not that I remember.

Q Who took breakfast? A As far as I remember it was Mrs. Hall and Mr. Stevens.

Q When was it you first heard the bodies had been discovered?

A About 1:15 on Saturday afternoon.

Q Do you know a Mr. David? A Yes, sir.

Q You had a number of conversations with him? He represents the Prosecutor in Middlesex County? Didn't you tell him shortly after the murder that you had seen Mrs. Hall going over towards the house of Henry Carpender after Dr. Hall left?

A I don't remember.

Q You don't remember that. Do you remember whether you did see her going over or not? A No, I do not.

Q Where did Mr. Henry Carpender live with reference to Mrs. Hall's house? A He lived about two doors down.

Q Did Mrs. Hall's family have a small sedan?

A They had a Dodge sedan.

Q Well, a small sedan, wasn't it? A Yes.

Q Do you remember what color it was? A It is either dark blue or black.

Q They had it at the time of the murder, on the night of the murder? A I beg your pardon?

Q They had it before the murder? A Oh, yes.

Q Do you know anything or have you made any statement about Mrs. Hall cleaning that car on Friday morning with a vacuum cleaner? A I don't remember.

Q You don't remember having said anything about that.

Do you remember Mrs. Hall driving out in that car Friday morning? A I think she went out about ten o'clock Friday morning.

Q Do you know how long she was away? A I should judge three-quarters of an hour.

Q She drove the car, didn't she? A Yes.

Q Are you the person who sent a coat to Philadelphia for Mrs. Hall, to be dyed, after the murder, shortly after the murder? A No, sir.

Q Do you know who did send that? A No, sir.

MR. PFEIFFER: I shall be glad to tell you if you wish to know.

MR. SIMPSON: Very glad to hear you. Who is it?

MR. PFEIFFER: It was Mrs. William Bearman.

Q On Saturday were you present when anyone called Mrs. Hall out on the telephone? Did you hear any conversation over the telephone? A On Saturday morning?

Q Yes. A Yes, I did.

Q What time? A I think it was between twelve and one. I am not sure.

Q Who were the persons who were talking, if you knew? That is, on your end. A I don't know who it was. Mrs. Hall answered the telephone.

Q What did you hear her say? A I heard her say that Mr. Hall was out of town for a few days, or something similar to that.

Q Between twelve and one? A Between twelve and one I

Louise Geist--direct

2009 p12

think.

Q What else did you hear her say? A I heard her say,
"Don't tell me anything over the 'phone."

Q Did you hear Mrs. Hall telephoning on Friday night?

A Yes, sir; I did.

Q Did you hear her say, "It must be Mrs. Mills. She is the
only one he is familiar with"? Did you hear her say that?

A Something similar to that.

Q Over the telephone. When was that? A That was on
Friday night.

Q About what time? A I think it was between nine and
ten o'clock. I am not sure.

Q As you remember it, all that you heard her say over the
'phone was, "It must be Mrs. Mills. She is the only one he is
familiar with"? Is that right? A Something similar to
that. I won't say those exact words.

Q You don't know whom she was talking to? A Yes, I
think it was Mr. Florance she was speaking to.

Q Mr. Florance, a lawyer? A Yes.

Q Do you remember seeing ^{ing} _A Mrs. Carpender in the kitchin on
Saturday? A Yes, sir.

Q Is that the wife of Mr. Henry Carpender? A No, sir.

Q Who is she? A Wife of Mr. Edwin Carpender.

Q What did she say about the bodies being found?

A She came in and told us that Mr. Hall was dead, or had been
found dead, or something similar to that.

2009 p13

Q And who was it said, "Oh no no, something about murder?"

A Oh then Maria Gildea said, "Was he murdered?" and she said, "Oh, no, we don't know everything yet, we haven't found out everything yet," or something like that.

Q You didn't hear Mrs. Hall at two o'clock in the morning, Friday, in the house, did you?

A No, I did not.

Q Did you after you went to bed, hear the noise of automobiles outside - was the garage near you?

A Not very near, about one hundred feet away.

Q You don't remember hearing any automobile leave about one o'clock in the morning, do you?

A No.

Q Or about ten o'clock at night? A No.

Q Now were you there in Mrs. Hall's presence when Mr. Carpender came in, Mr. Edwin Carpender?

A I wasn't in her presence but I was in hearing of it.

Q But you heard it? A Yes, sir.

Q Where was she sitting when he came in?

A I think she was sitting in the parlor.

Q What time of the day was it?

A Before or after one, I am not sure.

Q Can't you remember whether it was before or after? Of course it is four years ago. I don't ask you to remember anything that is too difficult. You aren't sure. It was

2009 pl4

near one?

A Yes.

Q What conversation did you hear between Mrs. Hall and Mr. Carpender?

A Mr. Carpender, that is Mr. Edwin Carpender and Mr. James Nelson came in and I heard Mr. Edwin Carpender say, "It is as you thought, Frances."

Q "It is as you thought, Grace?"

A "Frances," and she said, "I knew it," or "I know it," either one of those two.

Q She said "I knew it," or "I know it," either one of those two?

A I think it was, "I knew it."

Q Did she break down and cry?

A I didn't see her.

MR. PFEIFFER: No questions.

MR. SIMPSON: I have other witnesses. Fifty-seven, we have examined.

(At this point an adjournment was taken until Monday, August 16th, 1926, at ten o'clock, A.M.)